

Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

April, May, June 2021



From left to right: Bird bander & naturalist Rachel Anderson shares the wonder of a recently banded bird with park visitors. Volunteer Margie Hunter documents birds during Project FeederWatch at the Sandy Bivens Bird Garden. Invasive Plant Control staff, Dr. John Lewis & Bird Intern Savannah Emery from Lipscomb University, and The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee staff learn about our annual park-wide Barn Swallow Survey. Volunteer Ava Cassidy searches for radio-tagged Wood Thrush with a hand-held receiver.



From left to right: A recently fledged Kentucky Warbler captured & banded during MAPS. Two Acadian Flycatchers. Sandy Bivens with a Ruby-throated Hummingbird recaptured in April—we first banded this girl as a hatch-year bird in August 2020 here at the Nature Center. Just banded Purple Martin nestlings. An adult, male Kentucky Warbler. A Purple Martin at our new gourd system—we captured this male on the nest—the first time we have ever banded an adult male Purple Martin! A Hooded Warbler—in 40 years of banding, we have only captured 8 previously, our last one in 2009!



From left to right: The MAPS team taking detailed measurements as part of our 31st year for this project. Matching and fabulous volunteers Diana McLusky, Sue Shallow, & Susan Bradfield. It takes a team to pull off a MAPS session and still smiling after a long day. Heather Gallagher bands Purple Martin nestlings during our 20th year for this project.

Celebrating our 40 year legacy of avian research



Bird Information, Research and Data (B.I.R.D.) Quarterly Report

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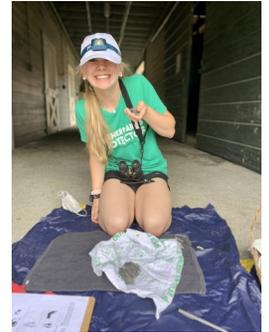
Celebrating the WPNC Bird Banding Station 40 year legacy of avian research

BIRD Program

- 2021 marks the 40th year of the Warner Park Nature Center Bird Banding Station!
- Our dedicated and amazing team of volunteers donated 363 hours to the BIRD Program.
- We have posted several bird-related stories and blogs this spring. We hope you enjoy reading them at warneparkblogspot.com & www.warnerparks.org.
- The Warner Park Motus project was featured on the PBS tv program Tennessee Wild Side. You can view it by going to youtube.com and typing in 'telemetry stations decline in birds'.
- Team lead Diana McLusky has prepared the bluebird team for the nest box season from March through September. The first bluebird egg this year was laid on 25 March near Hwy 100.
- Volunteers Nancy Cole, Tahira Mohyuddin, Caroline Scism, & Jordan Jurnisky help our BIRD team continue to make progress on our 40 year database. We are look forward to presenting some fascinating banding information this year.
- Kathy Shaw led a zoom instructional presentation on bird molt in preparation for the upcoming MAPS season. Understanding molt (feather replacement) helps us to accurately age a bird.
- Savannah Emery is our summer BIRD intern from Lipscomb University. She is assisting with MAPS, Barn Swallows, and will be analyzing 20 years of hummingbird data for her research project.
- Laura attended the annual American Field Ornithologist conference & the Motus Fest conference.
- Thanks to Sandy Bivens, Graham Gerdeman, and Leah LaRocco for leading spring migration bird hikes throughout the park. We enjoyed being with park visitors again.
- Multiple research projects have kept the BIRD team busy throughout the spring. We will report on these projects when they wrap up at the end of the summer. These projects include MAPS, Eastern Bluebird Nestbox, Purple Martin nest success, Hummingbird migration, and Barn Swallows nest success.



Our Chimney Swift tower has educational signage



BIRD Intern Savannah Emery bands her first bird—a Barn Swallow nestling

BIRD Research Projects

- **Spring Migration Banding:** We held 4 banding sessions during the month of April & captured 25 birds of 11 species (18 new and 7 recaptures). Highlights included attaching a radio LifeTag transmitter on a Hermit Thrush and recapturing a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird that we banded at the nature center as a young (hatch-year) bird in August 2020.
- **Project FeederWatch:** Sponsored by Cornell Laboratory, this winter-long bird survey is used to help scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Melissa Donahue led a team that conducted 21 counts & tallied 29 species of winter birds at the Sandy Bivens Bird Garden from November through April. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers: Jean Louise Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Charlotte Barnes, Rebecca & Mia Dandekar, Margie Hunter, & Beth Preston, and Kathy VonArb.
- **Motus:** A radio-tagged, wintering Hermit Thrush departed on April 7th after spending at least 171 days with us. Will it return again in the fall? This spring we have placed 9 LifeTag transmitters on thrushes (1 Gray-cheeked, 4 Swainson's, 3 Wood, & 1 Hermit). Amazingly, 2 of our radio-tagged Wood Thrush are a mated pair with a nest not far from the banding station.
- **TOS spring count:** On May 1st, several volunteers conducted the Warner Park portion of the Tennessee Ornithological Society's spring bird count. These have been on-going in Warner Parks since 1927! This year we had 88 bird species, including a Loggerhead Shrike at steeplechase.
- **Breeding Bird Survey:** Sandy Bivens with assistance from Bob Parrish, conducted the annual Breeding Bird Survey, on-going since 1985. This year they counted 272 birds of 48 species—a good year.
- **Warner Parks Barn Swallow Survey:** This year we conducted two surveys to better capture first and second clutches. In May we had 89 total nests, 64 active with 50 eggs and 12 nestlings. In June we had 86 nests, 34 active with 68 eggs and 51 nestlings. The Steeplechase Barn is the most productive nesting colony in the park, & overall Warner Parks is producing close to 200 Barn Swallow nestlings each year—important because this aerial insectivorous bird's population has declined by 40% over the past 50 years.



A recently fledged Wood Thrush

The BIRD Program is funded by Friends of Warner Parks in partnership with Warner Park Nature Center and Nashville Metro Parks & Recreation